

## THE DEATH-FEINT OF TROX UNISTRIATUS BEAUV.

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These brief notes represent the results of some observations made upon the death-feints of six specimens of *Trox unistriatus*.

These beetles feign death readily upon the slightest touch, unless they are handled constantly. In the death-feint attitude

### DURATION OF SUCCESSIVE DEATH-FEINTS OF TROX UNISTRIATUS BEAUV.

Beetle A (Seconds)	Beetle B (Seconds)	Beetle C (Seconds)	Beetle D (Seconds)	Beetle E (Seconds)	Beetle F (Seconds)	
25	70	112	20	930	6	
45	55	61	4	70	4	
10	30	17	5	125	1	
14	29	21	4	30	1	
90	10	29	3	21		
25	22	9	4	8		
22	14	12	2	7		
15	13	23	1	8		
9	11	14	1	7		
4	6	35	1	5		
5	4	10		4		
2	2	7		2		
2	1	6		3		
		7				
		6				
		4				
		1				
		1				
		2				
		3				
		1				
		1				
		4				
		5				
		2				
		1				
Total .....	268	267	394	45	1,220	12
Average ...	20	20	15	4	94	3

the head is bent down and the femora of the first pair of legs advance toward the head. As the head bends down, the antennæ take a position under it, and before the femora of the first pair of legs move up, the tibiæ and tarsi assume a position parallel to and close against the anterior edges of the femora. The second and third pairs of legs are held close to the ventral surface of the body, with the femora, tibiæ and tarsi in the positions commonly assumed by other beetles in death feigning attitudes. The termination of the death-feint is usually gradual, the antennæ emerging first, or the tarsi of the first pair of legs. This relaxation then extends to the other legs more or less simultaneously.

The foregoing table exhibits the duration in seconds of the successive death-feints of six beetles, with an interval of four seconds between each death-feint, at a temperature of 80° F., and a relative humidity of 60 per cent.

Apparently there is a wide variation in the length of the death-feint of different specimens. In the above cases, it varied from one second to as many as 930 seconds, when the intensities of the outside stimulations were approximately constant. With the exception of beetles C and F, the number of successive death-feints ranged from 10 to 13. In F it was 4, and in C, it was 26. At the end of these numbers the death-feints were no longer produced and the beetles made continuous efforts to escape. It may also be noted that the tendency is for the death-feints to become shorter as they successively increase in numbers.